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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

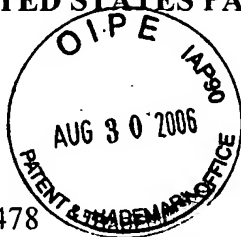
In re Application of

Akira ISHIDA, et al.

Application No.: 10/764,478

Filed: January 27, 2004

For: PLATE SUPPLYING APPARATUS



Customer Number: 20277 .

Confirmation Number: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3653

Examiner: Thomas A. Morrison

SECOND STATUS INQUIRY

Mail Stop Status Inquiry  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the Status Inquiry filed September 26, 2005, Applicant notes the subsequent USPTO Letter dated November 30, 2005 indicating that an office action should issue in seven (7) months. Further noted is the fact that the above-identified application was filed on January 27, 2004, more than two and one-half years have elapsed since that date with no action having been issued, and that the Official Gazette indicates applications filed on or before December 11, 2004 in the above-assigned Group Art Unit should have received an action on the merits. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be informed of the current status of the referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

*See*

Stephen A. Becker

Registration No. 26,527

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277  
as our correspondence address.**

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**Date: August 30, 2006**